



South Carolina Department of
**CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY**
Advocacy. Accountability. Service.

MONTHLY UPDATE

Department of Children's Advocacy Monthly Update
Connecting with and updating our community



Looking for resources?

VISIT OUR ONLINE RESOURCE
LIBRARY [HERE](#)

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Medically Complex Children's Waiver is Available for Eligible South Carolina Children



The Medically Complex Children's (MCC) waiver is a statewide program to serve medically complex children from birth to age 18. Children qualifying for this program must meet level of care and medical criteria. Eligible children must be residents of South Carolina and qualify for Healthy Connections Medicaid. Waiver services include Pediatric medical day care and care coordination by a registered nurse (RN). For more information, click [here](#).

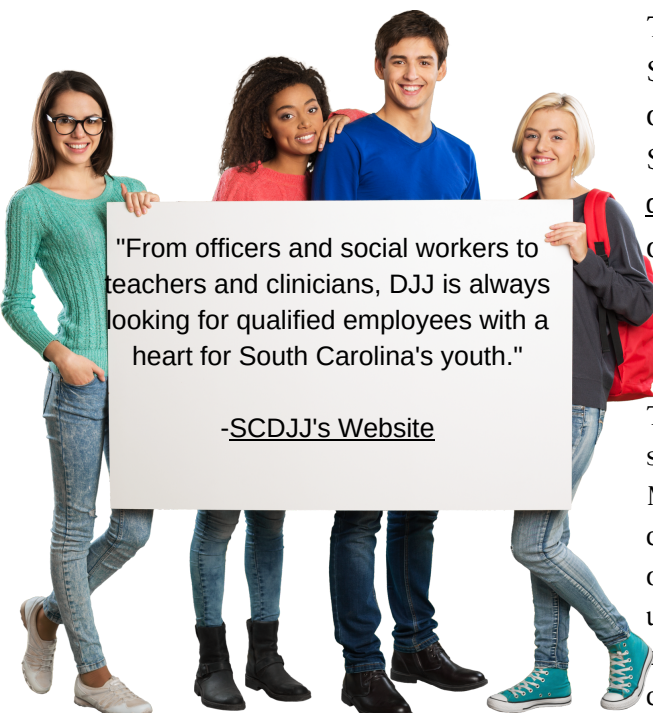
To make a referral ~

Online: https://phoenix.scdhhs.gov/cltc_referrals/new

Phone: (803) 898-2577 or (803) 904-8082



S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice Offers Signing and Retention Bonuses for Critical Needs Vacancies



"From officers and social workers to teachers and clinicians, DJJ is always looking for qualified employees with a heart for South Carolina's youth."

-[SCDJJ's Website](#)

The Department of Children's Advocacy shares with you that the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice has many job openings and opportunities for individuals who want to work with young people. SCDJJ's website says, "The agency operates its own accredited school district, helps youth pursue career and workforce development opportunities, shows youth how to make a positive impact on their local communities, and provides rehabilitative and recreational services tailored to the individual needs of each young person."

The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (SCDJJ) launched signing bonus and employee referral programs in the Summer of 2020. In May 2021, DJJ significantly increased those bonus incentives. All new correctional officers, specified rehabilitative services professionals and other "critical-need" positions joining the agency receive a signing bonus up to \$10,000. That sum will be paid out in installments. This structure is designed to not only recruit new staff, but also retain them for years to come.

DJJ also increased its referral incentives for current employees. Agency employees receive up to a \$1000 referral bonus for each new hire they refer to the agency (for critical-need vacancies only). Learn more [here](#).



Meet Makayla B.

featured on the S.C. Heart Gallery

Makayla enjoys spending time with friends, skateboarding and playing basketball. This future nurse hopes to join the military and use her skills to pursue a career in the medical industry. Makayla describes herself as beautiful, unique and understanding. She says that her personality is the most amazing thing about her. A loving two-parent home is ideal for Makayla.

Makayla's Photographer:
Brooke Christi © 2019



*Are you the forever home
for Makayla?*

Learn more about Makayla B.
[here.](#)

Learn more about other children
who are in foster care and who
are waiting for a forever home
at

[S.C. Heart Gallery.](#)



Department of Children's Advocacy Welcomes Administrative Coordinator, Office of State Director



Christian Holmes, LMSW
Administrative Coordinator
Office of the State Director
S.C. Department of Children's Advocacy

Christian Holmes joined the Department of Children's Advocacy on August 2, 2021 as the Administrative Coordinator in the Office of the State Director. She is a Licensed Master of Social Work. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Virginia Tech and her Master's degree in Social Work from the University of South Carolina. Christian is currently pursuing her Ph.D. at the University of South Carolina.

Christian was previously employed as a Social Worker with William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute and as a Mental Health Professional/Therapist in the private sector. We are grateful to have Christian's wealth of experience and genuine concern for child wellbeing. Christian can be reached at Christian.Holmes@childadvocate.sc.gov or 803-734-3176.

Department of Children's Advocacy Updates COVID-19 Guidance for Staff and Volunteers

Based on recently updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) concerning COVID-19, the mission of this agency, the degree of public interaction, and other considerations, Department of Children's Advocacy staff and volunteers are required to wear face masks when conducting the business of the Department of Children's Advocacy unless the staff or volunteer is working alone in his or her car or office.

The requirement to wear face masks is subject to change based on additional guidance and recommendations from SCDHEC and the CDC. A link to the updated CDC guidance can be found [here](#). A link to S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is [here](#).

**EVERYONE 12+
IS NOW ELIGIBLE!**

Everyone 12 and older in SC is now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine! Get your vaccine ASAP.

THE COVID-19 VACCINE



Don't let your guard down against COVID-19.



Keep social distancing



Wear a mask



Wash your hands often

Last Friday, August 27, 2021, S.C. had the 3rd largest number of new positive cases since the beginning of the pandemic. For SCDHEC's testing data and projections, click [here](#).

Children's Law Center Provides Valuable Training for DSS, Richland CASA & Guardian ad Litem Program



Collaboration Training for DSS Staff and Guardian ad Litem/CASA Staff: On August 6, the Children's Law Center provided provide techniques and strategies for improving communication and collaboration between Guardians ad Litem and Court-Appointed Special Advocates and DSS case managers. Topics included effective communication utilizing “the seven C’s of communication,” active listening, and five principles of collaboration. The training also provided an overview of the roles and responsibilities of both the DSS case manager and the GAL/CASA and how their similarities and differences impact the child and family in child abuse and neglect cases. This training complemented the regional collaboration training sessions that were held in March and April of this year among DSS, Guardian ad Litem, Richland CASA, and Foster Care Review Board.



Motivational Interviewing Training for Guardian ad Litem Staff: On August 27, 2021, the Children's Law Center facilitated a training regarding Motivational Interviewing. UofSC's Dr. Samuel McQuillin, Associate Professor and Program Director of the Psychology Department, presented the topic. With more than 10 years of studying, researching, writing, and teaching in the field of psychology with an emphasis on child development, mentoring, and motivational interviewing skills, Dr. McQuillin provided an engaging and informative training session.

“Motivational Interviewing is one of the most studied forms of counseling in the world and has evidence for effectiveness in helping people change a variety of health, life, and wellness behaviors.” -Children's Law Center [website](#).

Thank you to the volunteer Guardians ad Litem and staff who attended these virtual continuing learning opportunities. Thank you to UofSC School of Law's Children's Law Center for facilitating valuable trainings to strengthen our communication and effectiveness. ♥

Career Opportunities with the S.C. Department of Children's Advocacy



*An Opportunity to Make a
Difference*

FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

Advocating Permanent Families for Children

Our Mission

The mission of the South Carolina Foster Care Review Board is to provide external accountability for the foster care system and to advocate on behalf of children in foster care.

Our Vision

South Carolina will make child well-being a top priority by assuring safe, permanent families for all children in foster care.



The South Carolina Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) is administered by the S.C. Department of Children's Advocacy and was created in 1974 by the General Assembly to monitor the progress in achieving permanent placements for children in foster care. We are searching for a Director for the FCRB to supervise and lead the FCRB staff of approximately 20 hard-working professionals in Columbia and also to partner and advocate with the FCRB State Board and 200 legislatively-nominated and gubernatorial-appointed local Board members.

Learn more about what the FCRB does for SC's children by reviewing the [FCRB 2019-2020 Annual Report](#).

The FCRB Director has an opportunity to not only impact approximately 3900 children who are in foster care in our state but also to promote systemic changes that improve outcomes for children and families.

Does this describe you? Do you know someone who would be perfect in this role? Visit careers.sc.gov to [apply](#). The application period closes Thursday, September 9, 2021.

Join our team!



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